

FRAUD ALERT: Request for Divorce Representation

A Nova Scotia lawyer was contacted by a prospective client via e-mail, seeking representation in a divorce.

The emails she received contained many grammar and spelling errors. An example of such grammar and spelling follows:

"Please note that i had contact one other lawyer and i am waiting to hear from him, so i advise that you get back to me as soon as possible with your address,person phone number and how much these will cost me, so i can start making arrangment as soon as possible...I will have all necessary documents filled and signed once i get to your office.."

The lawyer declined representation because of a number of red flags that included the grammar and spelling errors and:

- Discrepancies in the different e-mails that were received from the prospective client including the place of the marriage and even what country she was coming to; in one e-mail it was the US and in another it was Canada
- The prospective client not being willing to facilitate telephone contact by calling the law office or providing a number where she could be reached
- The client not complying with the lawyer's request for information such as details of the marriage, residency, parties' names and addresses etc.

The Nova Scotia Lawyer declined representation and thus, received no retainer from the prospective client. However the prospective client seemed quite willing to pay a retainer. Had one been paid, the lawyer may have found herself with a dishonoured cheque.

If you have any questions on these, or any other fraud-related matters, or want to report a potential scheme, contact Cynthia Nield at cnield@lians.ca or call 423-1300, ext.346